22nd August 1960]

SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI: பஞ்சாயத்து கோர்டுகளிலே இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் விதியின் பிரகாரம் பஞ்சாயத்து விவகாரங்கள் நடத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. அவ்வாறு இல்லாமல் வேறு எந்த வகையிலே மாற்றுவதாகச் சர்க்கார் உத்தேசித்திருக்கிறது ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: இது இப்பொழுது பரிசீலனையில் இருக்கிறது. மத்திய அரசாங்கம் இதைப்பற்றி விசாரணை நடத்திக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த விசாரணை முடிந்தபின், இந்தச் சர்க்கார் முடிவு எடுக்கும்.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, since most of the personnel who man these panchayat courts are not aware of the Civil Procedure Code and since they are not properly functioning and dispensing justice with respect to small cases entrusted to them, will the Government think of the possibility of abolishing the entire panchayat court system? What is the recommendation of the Law Commission on this matter? Also, may I know whether the Government will adopt the recommendation of the Law Commission as far as these courts are concerned?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I have already stated that the Government of India have appointed a Special Commission to go into the question of the functioning of the Village Panchayat Courts. So, we will await the results of that enquiry.

SRI T. SAMPATH: Is there any proposal to invest them with criminal powers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I do not think that there is any such proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions are over.

II. STATEMENT *re* NEGOTIABILITY OF HUNDRED-RUPEE CURRENCY NOTES.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Hon. Minister for Finance will make a statement under Rule 82 of the Assembly Rules.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in June this year, there came to light an attempt at forgery of 100-rupee currency notes in Coimbatore district. Complaints were also received that as a result of the scare created by this discovery, there was difficulty in exchanging even genuine 100-rupee currency notes. As the matter was primarily one concerning the Reserve Bank of India, it was taken to the notice of the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India issued a Press Communique on the 25th June 1960 stating that according to the information at their disposal, the forged notes have not circulated to such an extent as to cause the public any concern. They have publicised the fact that there is absolutely no reason for the public to change the genuine notes at less than par value.

Full facilities for exchange are available at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India and the branches of the State Bank of India, its subsidiaries and other scheduled banks and at all treasuries and sub-treasuries. This Government have also published a Press Communique incorporating this in the form of posters both in Tamil and English. The Reserve Bank of India have on their part issued instructions to officers in charge of the Branches of the State Bank, branches of scheduled banks and officers in charge of the treasuries and sub-treasuries to offer unrestircted conversion facilities to all genuine notes.

We have instructed the Police to see that no person who presents a note for conversion is harassed unless there is reason to suspect his *bona fides*. At this stage of investigation, it is not possible to issue any further instructions in the matter.

Whether it would be advisable to publish a detailed list of the forged notes has been considered. We have however been advised that just at present this will cause more harm than good.

I may also invite the attention of the hon. Members to the statement of the Hon. Finance Minister, Government of India, on 8—8—1960, that there is no reason for any alarm or panic as the forgeries constitute only a microscopic proportion of genuine notes.

I hope and trust that hon. Members will whole-heartedly co-operate with the Government in abating the alarm and in publicising the free convertibility of genuine notes.

III. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS.

(1) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES.

SRI K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Committee on Government Assurances, I present the Eighth Report of the Committee on Government Assurances.

(2) COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION.

SRI T. SAMPATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, I present the Ninth Report (Second Assembly) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENT RE. MADRAS STATE HOUSING BOARD BILL, 1960.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce that the Governor has given his recommendation to the introduction in, and consideration by, the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras State Housing Board Bill, 1960.